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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Lori Hutchinson, Vaccine Coordinator
Montana Immunization Program

DATE: August 17, 2011

SUBJECT: 2011–2012 VFC Influenza Vaccine Update

Vaccine Availability

Our first orders of influenza vaccine are arriving at McKesson, and we expect to begin distributing to Montana VFC providers the **first week of September**. Influenza vaccine arrives at McKesson in stages from late August through the end of the year, and we will distribute it to providers roughly once per week as it becomes available. Only those providers with small orders will receive their entire allotment at once. Most providers will receive their shipments in stages from September through December.

Please note that influenza vaccine orders are handled by the Immunization Program in Helena, not by Home IV Pharmacy in Butte. Please direct all inquiries about influenza vaccine to 444-5580 (hhsiz@mt.gov).

Vaccine Information Statements

Influenza vaccine information statements (VISs) for the 2011–2012 season are available on the CDC VIS web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>.

Key Points about the 2011–2012 Influenza Season

The vaccine composition for the 2011–2012 season has not changed from last season and there may be confusion about whether those vaccinated last year need a shot for the current year. The CDC and the Montana Immunization Program strongly recommend an annual flu vaccination as the first and best defense against influenza even in years when the vaccine composition has not change from the previous year. This fall, everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated as soon as 2011–2012 influenza vaccines become available. For more information, we've attached the entire CDC "Key Points about the 2011–2012 Influenza Season" along with this memo.

If you have questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580 (hhsiz@mt.gov).

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